

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# Mecheleci

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The MECHLECIV is published monthly by the undergraduates of the School of Engineering of the George Washington University

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## KEEP THE BALL ROLLING!

The enthusiasm shown at the organization of the student chapter of the IRE at its first meeting promises a lively future for student activities in the School of Engineering. Dissatisfaction with the ancient custom of one meeting per month for the several societies led to discussion of more frequent meetings, including afternoon technical sessions.

Here is an opportunity for the full-time student to derive benefits more nearly equal to his share. For many years the courses of study and student activities have been geared to the needs of night students. Now full time students outnumber night students. Courses of study and activity changes must come accordingly. You must make them.

The ticket sale for the Engineers' Ball is a case in point. Among night students, especially in advanced classes, a very high percentage bought tickets early. The Engineers' Council, composed mainly of part-time students, had little contact with the day classes, especially lower division subjects, and the sale lagged. This is not an argument to convince you to give up studying. But since you are enrolled here, make yourself a part of the school!

Here is how it is done: If you haven't joined the student society which most nearly represents your engineering field of interest - mechanical, civil, electrical, or radio - then do so. Buy a ticket to the ENGINEERS' BALL - just ask in the Engineers' Lounge, Corcoran 200; there will be someone there who will have them.

There are several other activities which deserve your attention. If you are a crusader at heart, the opportunities are varied. The proposed Engineer's Library, though not a completely stagnant movement, can use several human dynamoes. A Hobby Shop (MIT has one, and their undergrad are no more supermen than you are.) has been suggested, details of which you will find elsewhere in this issue. There is continual talk of escaping the war-vintage black-out paint off the skylight in the engineers lounge.

Then, there is the MECHLECIV for those who are in the least literary-minded. We always need help. Your contribution will probably be printed if you just drop it in the box by the Dean's bulletin board. If you are adept at any of the more mysterious arts of putting a "rag" together, you are doubly welcome.

Just a parting shot -- Deadheads are a dime a dozen, but human dynamoes, or leaders, or whatever you wish to call them, are rare. None was ever born. They all get that way by the sweat of their own brows. You won't learn any younger, so get the ball rolling, and keep it rolling!

## DEAN'S COLUMN

"People's actions are determined largely by what they believe. If the things they believe are wrong, their actions in respect to such beliefs are likely to be ill-advised, both from their own standpoint and that of the public at large."

In that paragraph, quoted from an address called the "Penalties of Economic Ignorance", Frank Surface, Standard Oil Company executive, gives a possible clue for the answer to the question, "Does an engineering education pay?"

I do not know your answer to that question. Within the past few days, I've heard two successful men, one a college president and the other the chairman of the board of a very large textile corporation, answer the question differently. The college president, not an engineer, said in effect that engineers would be a dime a dozen if we had a depression and that the ones who weathered the storm must have personal abilities in addition to technical knowledge.

The successful business man, himself an engineer, said he wasn't worried about engineers, but about the very large number of men about to be turned out of college with an education but no place to go to work.

I do not know the blanket answer to the original question. If I didn't believe that an engineering training was a useful training for a life work, I wouldn't be the dean of a school of engineering. I am sure an education of any sort is not a substitute for intelligence. I do believe that a man who completes successfully an engineering course must have learned one way of thinking through and finding an answer to an engineering or business problem. Every graduate will be hired for his willingness to work and he will gain success by being paid for what he learns and builds on as he advances in his profession.

Any man who expects a college education of any kind to be the basis for an easy job is just fooling himself. But you have only to look at the rosters of the professional engineering societies to know that a very large percentage of the men who graduate in engineering find a life work as a result of their training and many rose to high positions of industrial and business responsibility.

Imagination, courage, loyalty, and a sense of humor, added to their technical knowledge, got them where they are.

-- Frederick M. Faiker

## OUR COVER

"And this is a rectifier," Kenneth Polse shows Priscilla Hart the workings of Lisner Auditorium's saturable reactor dimmer. Priscilla plays the lead in Cue and Curtain's forthcoming production, "Ladies in Hades". Photo by Polse.

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 5 -- ALL SOCIETIES - Monthly Meeting
- 8 -- ENGINEERS' BALL
- 12 -- THETA TAU - Long
- 19 -- ENGINEERS' COUNCIL IRE MEETING
- 26 -- THETA TAU - Short SIGMA TAU

# PROPOSE HOBBY SHOP FOR ENGINEERS

A hobby shop, to be jointly sponsored by the ASCE, ASME, AIEE and IRE has been proposed by a group of interested students. All engineers have some common interests which could be used to bring the various engineering groups into spiritual as well as physical unity.

Most engineers have the desire to pursue a hobby. Therein lies the common denominator for the engineering societies. Through what better medium could a member of any society feel akin to his fellow engineering students than in a jointly operated Hobby Shop?

The name describes both a physical facility and the group of engineers which would be brought together by it. Such an undertaking by the engineering societies would not only stimulate interest in the societies, but would complement and aid the educational work of the engineering school, and enrich the communal spirit of the engineering students.

The initial cost of such a Hobby Shop might be met in a variety of ways, two of which warrant suggestion. The necessary funds could be raised in part by contributions from local engineering alumni, who in turn would be granted the use of the facilities they helped create. The donation or loan of tools, equipment and furnishings from individuals may be expected to go far toward making it workable. A small assessment of engineering society members could partially meet the original cost. The Hobby Shop could well be started with a modest investment in wood and metal working machines and tools and increase its facilities as funds become available. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology opened a similar hobby shop in 1938, and since that time it has doubled in size.

To be considered is the fact that George Washington University does not have a machine tool laboratory. The number of engineering students who have never seen - such less used - woodworking and metalworking machinery, is appalling. Here is an opportunity for all engineering students to become familiar with those tools which are so necessary, and of which so many know so little. Here is an excellent opportunity also to put common "safety rules" into practice.

The spontaneous enthusiasm with which those first introduced to it greeted the idea gives a positive indication as to its popularity.

There is little doubt that with space provided by the University, the engineering societies can make the Hobby Shop a self-sustaining unit.

You who are interested in radio, photography, electroplating, telescope making and the like - make it your business to introduce this matter at your next society meeting. If each organization delegates two members to a joint Hobby Shop Committee it should be possible for positive action to be taken soon.

-John C. Nygard

Scale glass, which has recently been developed as a substitute for mica in radio tubes, amazingly enough, is flexible and can be punched. It is composed of extremely thin glass scales which, under certain conditions in a liquid medium, cohere together and form a plate by their mutual van der Waals attraction.

# OR WHERE WE GO OUT?

A lot of wild stories have been spread about the geological effects of the atom bomb. Likewise a thick veil of superstition and fear of supernatural results has unscientifically been built up over the reports of the released radio-activity. But apparently, a story released in recent newspapers really takes the cake!

When the first atom bomb was released in arid New Mexico, observers reported that the desert sand was transformed into a fused green glass. Certain archeologists have been perturbed. They say, while digging in parts of Canada and the biblical Euphrates Valley, they have found layers of agrarian culture thousands of years old, much more ancient layers of herdmanship, and then layers of cave-man traces from prehistoric ages.

The oldest layers they reached at these same places were of fused green glass. The title of one of these articles is "Where We Came In."

## ENGINEERS ARE PEOPLE

by John Le Reche

# CLIFF WILLIAMSON PLANS TELEPHONE CAREER

Calm, smooth Cliff Williamson believes that the military method of learn-it-all-in-six-easy-lessons just doesn't apply in regular life. This may come as a shock to the many students who highly regard their specialized training - but that has been his experience.

The essentials of Cliff's 24 year old background are: he was born in Washington, D.C., attended Woodrow Wilson High School where he was active in the cadets, was graduated at fifteen, and attended the Junior College at George Washington for two years. Anxious to enter West Point, he furthered his education by studying at Mallard's Preparatory School but, due to poor eyes, was not admitted to "the Point." He interrupted his studies in March of 1941 to work for Western Electric, but resumed school several months later at G.W. Engineering School. Having acquired a full time position with the American Telephone and Telegraph Long Lines Office in 1942, he continued his schooling by attending evening classes. In September, of that year he enlisted in the Army, and reported for active service in March 1943.

His commendable service career started with the usual nine weeks basic training in Florida, followed by a twenty week technical course at Yale. Although he enlisted as an air cadet,

his training did not involve flying. He was commissioned in the fall of 1943, after which he saw overseas service in Italy.

After V.E. Day, he joined the 306th fighter wing as air-sea rescue officer. He was en route to the Pacific Theatre from Italy when the war ended, but upon reaching Cuba, his ship was ordered back to Boston. He was discharged in 1945, and returned to his position with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and to George Washington in the fall.

His career in the service proved to be of great value as he received instructions in aircraft maintenance, theory of operation of airplane parts and their construction.

Cliff intends to graduate in June, 1948. He averages 10 hours per semester as a part time student.

Cliff is chairman of the A.I.E.E., a member of Theta Tau, and the Engineer's Council. He intends to continue his studies with a Master's Degree in Physics.

Now a technical assistant in the equipment engineering section of cost estimating for the American Telephone and Telegraph, Cliff plans to stay with the Company upon graduation.

## KEEPING ALLIANCE WITH SCIENCE

by Leonard Bosin

The greatest honor of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers awarded for meritorious achievement in engineering, electrical science, or art, is named after one of the greatest scientists in our history. This is the Edison Medal which was established by a group of co-workers and friends of Thomas Alva Edison at an AIEE banquet in honor of Edison and the 25th anniversary of the incandescent light on February 11, 1901. The responsibility of administering the award and the Edison Medal Fund were at that given to the Institute.

Although the medal was originally to be awarded annually to a student for "the best thesis on record of research on theoretical or applied electricity or magnetism," this standard was revised in 1908, and today the medal is accordingly awarded "for meritorious achievement in electrical science or electrical engineering or the electrical arts." While Edison was still living, he often sent congratulatory messages to the recipients of the medal. Mr. Edison was presented with a silver replica of the Edison Medal. The gold medal is 2 11/16 inches in diameter and a bronze replica is given along with each award.

In the years from 1909 to 1946, the winners of the Edison Medal have been among the foremost scientists of the United States and Canada (The award is restricted to residents of these two countries.) Some of these were Westinghouse, Bell, Milikan, Kennelly, Whitney, and Venner Bush. The winner in 1946 was Dr. Lee de Forest who invented a method of grid control in a vacuum tube.

Although the Edison Medal is awarded for outstanding achievements and serves as an inspiration for future

accomplishments, its greatest significance is that helps to immortalize the memory of the man who had over a thousand patents, and contributed so greatly to the entire electrical industry. All this in spite of the fact that Edison, as a boy, once brought home a note from a school teacher saying he was too backward to attend classes.

## FEBRUARY MIXER IS SUCCESS

A strong argument for the inclusion of safety engineering in the engineering curricula was presented by Mr. Edward Landry, safety engineer for the U.S. Post Office Department, at the Engineers Mixer on February 12.

Four colleges now have a safety engineering course which includes practical applications on the campus of classroom work. A film on safety in offices served to point up Mr. Landry's talk.

Dean Frederick M. Felker began the meeting with an interesting account of his personal contacts with Thomas A. Edison, whose 100th birthday anniversary was celebrated on February 11. He also exhibited a plaster cast of Edison's hand made from life.

In addition, department heads introduced the considerably enlarged faculty, and Council President John Slothower introduced various students representing activities in the engineering school.

## HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKET FOR THE ENGINEERS' BALL?

COOKES

COFFEE

## IDEAL SANDWICH SHOP

Next to Circle Theatre

2101-1/2 PENNA. AVE., NW

DELICIOUS MILKSHAKES

## Short Circuits



If there are any criterion of good organization, then AIEE is tops again. At the instigation of Bernadine Dunfee, vice-chairman, plans have been formulated which will make this semester a notable one in our history.

George Kaly has been chosen to head a committee which will turn the EE lab into a dance hall sometime in April. Previous dances have always proved to be successful, and with Kaly as chairman -- enough said.

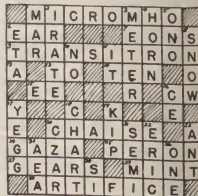
There is a report that Alfred (the Great) Barsuck and Frank Cullen caused quite a stir in the Executive Committee of the local Section of the AIEE by letting them know what the student branch at GWU wants in the way of help from our professional colleagues.

One pot that is coming to a state of ebullition is the projected field trip to the National Bureau of Standards in May. The exact date will be announced later. The March field trip is planned for the Telephone Company. There we shall be guided by Mr. O'Halloran or Mr. Rowland W. Schulte, members of the EE Department.

Word from an unimpeachable source here is that our spark-plug, Bernie, has been gold-bricking at Sibley Hospital. Our best wishes for a quick recovery, Miss Dunfee.

That does it -- field trips, advice, and best wishes. Let's see you at the next meeting, when the IRE will join us for the social and educational part.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE



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## NEW HIGH TEMPERATURE INSULATION DEVELOPED

A new material having the brand new name of Refrasil has been developed for use up to 2500 degrees F. It was originally developed for use on jet aircraft engines but there are many possibilities of its application in other industries.

Refrasil is efficient and light in weight. It is produced in a bat form or as a woven cloth. The maximum recommended temperature for continuous use is 2000 degrees F. However for short periods of usage, temperatures up to 2500 degrees F. are permissible. It has negligible shrinkage at 2000 degrees F. and the moisture pickup also is low.

The material has good chemical stability and is unaffected by ordinary acids and alkalis. Refrasil at low temperatures compares favorably with the best low temperature insulators. At high temperatures it has only one-third of the thermal conductivity of many standard materials.

Some of the other uses for which Refrasil is claimed to have possibilities besides as insulation for jet aircraft engines are as insulation for high temperature equipment and piping. It might be used as a filtration medium where chemical resistance and inertness are required. It may also be used as insulation in the electrical field.

At the present time experiments are going on to produce Refrasil in other forms such as tapes, cords and sleeving.

Emanuel Beck

## MEET YOUR PROFESSOR

by John Le Reche

Professor Kerley's youth and ambition may well supply our engineering faculty with new vitality and ambition. Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, James Joseph Kerley, Jr. comes to us well prepared with a variety of scholastic and engineering experience.

Mr. Kerley has followed the footsteps of his father, who was for 38 years a successful civil engineer. He attended Dartmouth on a scholarship, and was graduated in 1942.

During his college career, he participated in a wide variety of extra curricular activities including skiing, skating, soft ball, hockey, and touch football. Sigma Phi Epsilon social fraternity elected him its president.

After graduation, Mr. Kerley was employed for two years by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation as a stress analyst. He did his graduate work at the University of California and Loyola at Los Angeles.

He entered the Navy in 1944, spent six weeks at Tuscon, Arizona learning "dry land" seamanship, and then proceeded to sea duty as an officer aboard first an escort carrier and later a transport.

Discharged in 1946, Mr. Kerley came to Washington where he lives with his family. At the Italian Technical Delegation, he wrote specifications on all exports of "engineering materials," including everything from Maine potatoes to lumber from Oregon.



Lured by interest in teaching, Mr. Kerley came to G. W. this January. He has no future plans but desires to remain in the teaching profession.

In addition to the positions already mentioned, Mr. Kerley worked with his father for a year before going to college, and has worked on housing projects in Maryland as a field engineer.

His present interests include radio and television and he wishes time permitted him to take in a few weekends of skiing in New England.

Be on the lookout for a Kerley Boat Works, because Model One was built in the Philippines by the professor and some of his shipmates. It was a sailboat which brought no end of excitement, parties, and the like.

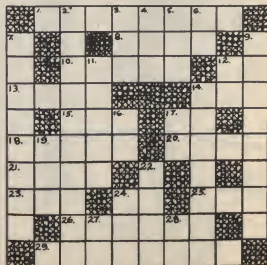
## CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

### HORIZONTAL

1. Criterion
8. Singly
10. Oxidizes
12. Milliliter
13. Infrequent
14. Sweet
15. 1/10 g
17. Alternating Current
18. Few: Comb. form
20. Not This, but the Other
21. A rare Gas
23. Charged particle
25. Proposed language
26. Isolated body of Land
27. To make sensitive

### VERTICAL

2. Pertaining to heat
3. New
4. Pop
5. One spot
6. Blood factor
7. Secondary tong
9.  $m = 9.1 \times 10^{-27}$  gms
11. Rule
12. Amplification factor
14. German surname
16. Behold
17. There
19. King of beasts
22. European Race
24. High priest
27. Street
28. Sodium



# SIGMA TAU

Formal Sigma Tau initiation of the fall term was held recently in the Columbian house. National Secretary C. A. Sjogren, faculty advisor Prof. Benjamin C. Cruickshanks and several alumni attended.

Following the ceremony, initiates, active members, alumni and honorary members adjourned to a banquet at the Blackstone Hotel. President Bob Kautz acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Dean Feiker discussed the prospects for a new building for the School of Engineering.

Desirability of a broad background in each of the fields of engineering was the theme of a talk by National Councillor Roesser.

Sjogren reviewed his observations of Sigma Tau men and activities throughout the country.

The initiates, in whose honor the banquet was given, are:

Fremont H. Jewell  
 Peter D. Koutsandreas  
 Theodore W. Nelson  
 Harry E. Nichols  
 George E. Rixse  
 A. Benjamin Sorin

Each of the initiates delivered a talk on a subject of his own choosing.



# HYPHOLLERIN'S

by Kenneth H. Folse

Stage photography is one of the most fascinating phases of camera addition. Actors, actresses and even stagehands will fall over backwards to have their pictures taken. Add to this the endless variety of props and unusual camera angles, and you have a halide heaven.

Amateur shows are more satisfactory for this type of work than professional productions. The strictly professional shows usually have a schedule which won't leave time for putting photographers. Also, union rules require a "picture call" every time pictures are taken on stage, which means a minimum payment to all stagehands for four hours work.



The slower pace of the assembly of most amateur shows permits a photographer to take pictures of all phases of the production. Remember, stagehands, scenery painters, lighting and sound technicians and other backstage workers are only slightly more modest than the actors. I've never seen one who wasn't eager to have his picture taken.

Don't be discouraged if they "already have an official photographer". Talk to the director or producer and explain that you want "candid" backstage shots. Confine your work to behind the footlights and you'll have more than enough material.

If your work is good, or even fair, don't hesitate to show it backstage. In all probability you'll get enough print orders to more than pay for supplies.

The camera is largely a matter of personal preference. I've used both a twin lens reflex and a 9 x 12 cm. plate job, but generally I stick to the smaller camera.

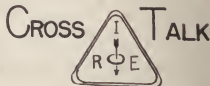
A tripod is a must. Most shots are taken at a twenty-fifth second or less. A ball and socket tilt top is better than a pan head because of its greater flexibility.



Fast film is essential. Super XX is my choice for rollfilm and Tri X serves in the cut film sheath. Photofloods are best in this type of work as most shots are taken at cross range and there are plenty of putleys available. If your subject can remain still for even as long as a second, however, you can make short time exposures with existing stage lights. I once had Cue and Curtain director Floyd Sparks pose with a poised hammer atop a thirty foot letter. My camera and I were safely nestled on the nearby pin rail.

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DEVELOPER DOOLIN'S...At last, pictures with the photo column...The recent blizzard offered lots of opportunities of good night shots. Anybody who went out in it must have really been interested in the art...Now that this mag is using photographic covers, it's time we saw a few shots on engineering subjects. Write your name and address on the back of a contact or 5 x 7 in. and drop it in the Mechelav box.



Elected officers at I.R.E.'s organizational meeting Feb. 19 were Larry Brown, chairman; John C. Nygard, vice-chairman; Reid Mayo, secretary; and Norrie Hakimian, corresponding secretary-treasurer.

Next meeting of the new chapter will be held on March 5. By-laws will be presented for approval.

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STRUCTURES OF SCIENCE — THE SMITHSONIAN

## OLD SOL BEARS WATCHING

by leonard bosin

In closing the series on the internationally known Smithsonian Institution, which is located in Washington, D. C., the final story concerns the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Division of Radiation and Organisms.

The Observatory exists today as a monument to the third Secretary of the Institution, Samuel Pierpont Langley, who developed the idea, obtained public and Congressional support, and outlined the nature of the investigations to be made. Although Professor Langley's most famous work was contributed in the field of aeronautics, he conducted notable researches for the observatory.



After the Observatory was constructed on the Smithsonian grounds in 1890, Langley constructed a self-invented spectrophotometer, a delicate instrument made to study the spectrum of invisible infrared rays of the sun. When perfected, this instrument was capable of measuring a change of temperature of one-millionth of a degree!

Eventually the chief concern of the Observatory was to calculate the solar constant which is the measure of the intensity of the sun's radiation, as if it were seen entirely outside the earth's atmosphere. Although observations on solar radiations were made for several years in Washington, D. C., the atmosphere was highly unsuitable, and several observation stations were established on high mountain peaks throughout the world. Daily computations are being made at stations in Chile, California, and New Mexico.



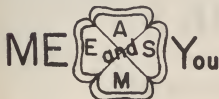
Study is also being made on the utilization of solar heat for practical purposes. Dr. Abbott, Secretary from 1927-44, was especially interested in this field. The time interval for measuring solar radiation has been cut down from one observation in 24 hours to five in four hours.

In the process, the pyrheliometer first measures the total intensity of the sun's rays in calories per

square centimeter per minute. At the same time the altitude of the sun is observed with a theodolite to fix the length of the path of the rays in the atmosphere. Then observations are made of the intensities of different wave lengths of sunlight with a bolometer. Finally, using various formulae and correction factors, the value of the observation is ascertained as if it were made outside the atmosphere.

The Divisions of Radiation and Organisms is now administered under the Astrophysical Observatory. Investigations have proceeded under this division with the aid of exacting equipment and much original apparatus, to determine the exact measurement of the effectiveness of different colored and varied-intensity light rays in promoting the assimilation of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, or the mechanics of photosynthesis.

Observations are also made of phototropism, or the bending of plants toward light, and several phases of light relations to plant growth. The Division has been maintained since 1941, under the Observatory, by Congressional appropriation.



by Norman Matlow

Ben Sorin has been looking over the hotel accommodations situation recently because there is some chance that we may have the A.S.W.E. regional meeting here at G. W. this year. If we do, it will be something that Professor Cruikshanks has been striving for for many a year. We have never had the regional meeting at G. W. and yet G. W. has always sent a candidate speaker to these meetings.

Washington would be an ideal place for the conference because of its many places of scientific interest. There is usually a conducted tour of places of engineering interest in the neighborhood of the university which is host. For Washington there are any number of places we could visit.

Whether we hold the conference here or not, one thing is definite, we want to win first place in the competitive talks this year. The way to do that is to choose the best speaker in our own preliminary competition to be held March 5 at 8:15 P.M. in Gov. 101.

Last year Bucknell University was host to the regional meeting, and a tall, red-headed youth from the University of Toronto walked off with the \$50 first prize for a talk on ways to derive power from the tides. Now I'm not saying we were betrayed, but this tall boy seemed to derive a lot of inspiration from one particular engineer in our own ranks. What do they call it, - aid and comfort to the enemy? By the way, this engineer is particular.



Having had their semi-annual beer brawl, the Civil Engineers are now back with the "books". From President Barry Kreisberg down to the lesser knights, the order of the day is Bridge stresses and indeterminates. It is probably a fine idea, as there are plans afoot for a picnic late in April.

Ervin Liljegen and Jack Lane (the so-called Party Committee) have decided to be ruthless and make the picnic "Drug" instead of the perennial "Stag beer party".

With such a pleasant prospect ahead the C.E.s are facing life's problems anew.

We are all looking forward to the night of Saturday, March 8, on which night we take our best gals, (for you married men I guess it will have to be your wives) to the United Nations Room of the Hotel Washington. For that is the night of nights, the 15th Annual Engineers Ball.

PENN-VUE DELICATESSEN

1928 PENNA. AVE., N.W.

FINE FOODS &amp; DELICACIES

## "INSIDE FOLSE"

### Synopsis:

To show that he has guts, Folse has accepted a challenge to jump from the roof of Corcoran to the roof of the Hall of Government in one leap. At the conclusion of the last episode he was heard to say:

"Egad, what a test ground for a super Yo-yo."

### CONCLUSION

Looking down from Corcoran roof, I saw that the students looked like ants. After a few seconds I even saw an uncle. It was my uncle.

Gently I dropped a loose brick on his head.

Perplexed, he looked up, and uttered some words which I will not repeat, even though the censorship isn't very rigid.

Briefly explaining my mission, I was not surprised to hear him say, "No, no, not that. You might break an arm..." His solicitude was touching.

"...and if you break an arm, you won't be able to wash the dishes."

As I girded for the leap (Note to typographer: That's gird...leap, not grid leak), grim determination crawled over my face. Grim determination took one look at my face and crawled back.

"I'm ready," I said to my admirers. "I will now jump to the Hall of Government roof in one jump."

"Egad," said one.

"Egad," uttered a second.

"Egad," echoed the third.

(Editor's note: Egad!!!)

I ran. I jumped.

Whoosh. Whoosh.

Alas, I had failed. It took two jumps.

(Editor's note: Egad, but I'm sorry we can't sell this space to some enterprising firm.)

## THETA TAU

On March 15th, you can be sure that there will be plenty of everything, including song, at the Continental. That is the date for the annual spring initiation, banquet, and dance. Beside those "habitual repeaters", resplendent in formal attire, the roster will include the following initiates: John Slothower, Clem Sunday, Ervin Liljigren, John Dallas, Dwin Craig, Fremont Jewel, Julian Showkier, and Bill Geinsee.

At the last meeting, elections were held and these changes were made in officers: Scribe Dick Fenton, whose graduation is impending, turned the minutes over to Brother Jack Lane. Brother Merrill Brown, assisted by Brother Dan McBride, replace Treasurer Felix Geisler in the financial dept. Brother Richard Shaw takes over Corresponding Secretary from Brother Alberts.

And so it goes with Theta Tau as March comes roaring in.

The density of an atomic nucleus is unimaginably fantastic. If it were possible to get one cubic centimeter of the material, an amount about the size of an ordinary bouillon cube, it would weigh 100,000,000 tons!

## New Gage Developed

The Audigage is a new device for thickness measurements. Its chief asset is its ability to take measurements from one side only. The measurement of the thickness of the steel in a pipe is thereby greatly simplified. The instrument is portable and can measure the thicknesses of many materials besides steel.

It operates with a crystal-type gage head, powered by a frequency-modulated electronic oscillator. When the vibrating crystal is applied to a wall surface, the fundamental and the harmonic frequencies at which the wall section will resonate are directly proportional to the velocity of sound in the material and inversely proportional to the thickness.

The Audigage provides a means whereby audible signals are produced corresponding to harmonic resonance. The frequency difference between any two adjacent audible signals as read on the tuning dial is readily converted into wall thickness on a concentric thickness scale.

Besides measuring wall thickness this instrument gives such information as kind of material, condition of reflecting surface, back-up liquids, and process scale.

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